

NEWS

The Tribal Newsletter
is published free monthly.

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LETTER

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Newsletter/Issues>

Vol. 16, No.10 — October 2007

◁ CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS ▷

October

- 3-5 EPA Western Brownfields Workshop, Portland, OR**
For information: Laura Sneeringer at 303-861-1637 or to register: wbwregistration@sra.com
- 15-17 The 13th Annual Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management/EPA IGAP Training, Anchorage AK**
For more information log onto ANTHC's website at <http://www.anthc.org>
or contact the DEHE Coordinator at (800) 560-8637 ext. 4505 or 729-4505.
- 17-18 Facilitating Work Groups and Public Meetings Workshop, Anchorage, AK**
Info: Jane Oakley at 907-786-6374 or anjeo@uaa.alaska.edu

November

- 5-8 HazMat Explo, Las Vegas, NV**
For information: Angie Proboszcz at 415/972-3077 or proboszcz.angie@epa.gov
- 5-9 Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association's 7 Generations Workshop, Kodiak, AK**
Info: Klaudia Klaudi at 907-222-4216 or klaudiak@apiai.org
For more information: <http://www.7generations.us/>
- 6-8 Improve and Protect Air Quality in Alaska workshop, Anchorage, AK**
For application and related information, go to:
<http://projects.pechan.com/epa/tribalWorkshops/index.cfm>
Application deadline is **October 19, 2007**
- 14-15 Native and Western Perspectives on Community Decision Making, Anchorage, AK**
Info: Jane Oakley at 907-786-6374 or anjeo@uaa.alaska.edu
- 27-29 The 2007 STORET/WQX Conference, Austin, TX**
For information or to register, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/storet/2007conf.html>
The deadline to register is **November 5, 2007**.

April 2008

- 21-24 EPA Region Tribal Leaders Summit, Little Creek Resort and Casino, Kamilche, WA**

June 2008

- National Tribal Conference for Environmental Management 2008, Billings, MT**
For information: Karen Rudek at 202-564-0472

Fish and Shellfish Consumption Rate Framework

EPA Region 10 is pleased to announce that it has completed its Framework for Selecting and Using Tribal Fish and Shellfish Consumption Rates for Risk-Based Decision Making at CERCLA and RCRA Cleanup Sites in Puget Sound and the Strait of Georgia north to the Border with Canada ("Framework"). *(Continued on Page 2)*

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Fish and Shellfish Consumption Rate Framework

This document presents a conceptual Framework for selecting and using Tribal fish and shellfish consumption rates to estimate site-related risks at EPA hazardous waste cleanup sites in Puget Sound and the portion of the Strait of Georgia that is within the United States. It is specifically intended for use at sites that are addressed through the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

The Framework’s function is to assist EPA Region 10 staff in managing RCRA and CERCLA cleanups in consideration of information that reflects Tribal exposures and concerns, but is not intended to replace government-to-government consultation. EPA will consult with Tribes on site-specific exposure assumptions and cleanup decisions at each Superfund and RCRA site within a Tribal fishing area or on Tribal land.

One of the many pieces of information needed to estimate potential human health risks due to chemical contamination at cleanup sites is exposure to site-related contamination from eating fish and shellfish. Consumption of locally harvested fish and shellfish by American Indians is likely to be higher than it is for the general U.S. population. Consumption rates may be drawn from various sources. In this document, highest preference is given to consumption rates derived from well-designed consumption surveys of Puget Sound Tribes, and lowest preference to default values from nationwide food intake studies.

EPA has completed its on the Framework for the time being. However, it is being referred to as a “working document,” representing EPA’s intention that it may be revised periodically. The Framework may be viewed at: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/Cleanup>

Track Water Supply by Satellites

For the last three years, the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) has been using satellites to study parts of the world that are experiencing water shortages. The Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) consists of a pair of satellites, orbiting 130 miles apart and measuring everything from rivers to aquifers to water contained in snow.

Initial data from the GRACE mission show that, over the past three years, the Congo River level is losing approximately 21.6 mm of water per year, while the Zamebezi and Nile Rivers are losing 16.3 mm and 9.3mm, respectively. NASA reports that the drop in the Congo’s water level represents two years worth of drinking water for people who depend on this water source.

In the U.S., the satellites have documented ground-water depletion in California’s Central Valley.

The site is available at:
<http://www.csr.utexas.edu/grace>

Water Quality Information

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service maintains a website (<http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic>) with information about water and agriculture. The Water Quality Information Center site includes searchable databases, bibliographies, discussions lists, and news.

From aquatic and wetland plants to water conservation, information is available on numerous water-related topics. The site features a section titled “Funding” that provides a comprehensive list of federal money available for water projects. This section may be accessed at:
<http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/funding.shtml>

U.S. Geological Survey

The U.S. Geological Survey--
<http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa> --has a wealth of information about water issues. The National Water Quality Assessment Program monitors various rivers and streams around the country, including pollutant levels for pesticides, nutrients, and volatile organic compounds.

USDA's Tribal Transit Assistance Program

The Tribal Transit Technical Assistance program, funded by the USDA Rural Business and Cooperative Service assists tribal communities in promoting economic growth and development by improving transportation services. The program provides planning assistance for facilities development, transit service improvements and expansion, new system start-up, policy and procedure development, marketing, transportation coordination, training and public transit problem solving activities. Deadlines are on a rolling basis. For more information visit:

<http://web1.ctaa.org/webmodules/webarticles/anmviewer.asp?a=259>

New Guidance on Watershed Permitting

EPA has published a new technical guidance that will help integrate National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits into watershed management plans. "Watershed-Based NPDES Permitting Technical Guidance" is a follow up to the 2003 implementation guidance and leads interested parties through the analysis of watershed data and developing a framework for implementing an NPDES program.

The guidance supports approaches to permitting that may help target the watershed's most pressing environmental needs. The approaches will help achieve water quality-based effluent limitations based on water quality standards while providing opportunities for cost reductions and improved efficiencies such as water quality trading. The guidance includes case studies describing how watershed approaches involving NPDES permitting have been implemented across the country.

EPA is accepting comments on the guidance on a continuing basis. For an electronic copy of the guidance visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/watersheds>

For additional information: Pat Bradley, 202/564-0729 or bradley.patrick@epa.gov

Small System Guidance

The EPA has developed guides for small systems about the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment (LT2) and the Stage 2 Disinfectants Byproducts Rule (DBPR).

Complying with the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule: Small Entity Compliance Guide is intended for small public water systems and contains a general introduction and background for the LT2 rule, describes the specific requirements of the rule, and provides information on how to comply with those requirements. Download the guide from the EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water website at: http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/disinfection/lt2/pdfs/guide_lt2_stepguide_smallentitycomplianceguide.pdf

Complying with the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule: Small Entity Compliance Guide contains a general introduction and background for the Stage 2 DBPR, describes the requirements of the rule that apply to systems serving fewer than 10,000 people, and provides step-by-step guidance on how small systems can comply with Stage 2 requirements. Examples of actions that systems might take to comply with rule are given throughout the guide. Download the guide at: http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/disinfection/stage2/pdfs/guide_st2_stepguide_smallentitycomplianceguide.pdf

Both manuals are also available from EPA's Water Resource Center by writing to 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington DC 20460, calling 202-566-1729, or e-mailing center.water-resource@epa.gov

Water Footprint

The water footprint of an individual business, or nation, is defined as the total volume of freshwater that is used to produce goods and services consumed by the individual, business, or nation. This site-- <http://www.waterfootprint.org> --provides information for national water footprints and a calculator for learning how much water an individual uses.

Sustainability

The EPA, along with its partners, has developed resources and programs to help water professionals and the water industry improve water efficiency efforts.

EPA's Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative--

<http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure> --is a broad effort that involves all aspects of water conservation, from watershed planning and effective utility management to encouraging pricing structures that fully recover utility costs and encourage efficiency. The goal is to move infrastructure management toward more sustainable practices by encouraging innovation, facilitating partnerships, and promoting research and development.

Watersense is a voluntary partnership

program that helps consumers identify water-efficient products and programs. The mission of this program is to protect the future of our nation's water supply by promoting and enhancing the market for water efficient products and services.

Both programs include resources and tips for using water more efficiently, with the Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative focusing on the utility or broader community and WaterSense focusing on consumers and businesses.

With the EPA's help, WaterSense utility partners can encourage their customers to use water-efficient products, choose water-efficient services, and be aware of how they use their water and which will help them save water, reducing overall demand.

The four pillars of better water management include:

- Better management of water and wastewater utilities can encompass practices like asset management and environmental management systems. Consolidation and public-private partnerships could also offer utilities significant savings.
- Rates that reflect the full-cost pricing of service and rate restructuring can help utilities capture the actual costs of operating water systems, raise revenues, and also help to conserve water.

- Efficient water use is critical, particularly in those parts of the country that are undergoing water shortages. We need to create market incentives to encourage more efficient use of water and to protect our sources of water.
- Watershed approaches look more broadly at water resources in a coordinated way, which is challenging because we have not traditionally thought of infrastructure management within the context of water quality protection.

For more information visit the page at <http://www.epa.gov/watersense> or call 866-WTR-SENS.

Izaak Walton League

For more than 30 years, the Izaak Walton League has been involved in watersheds through their Save Our Streams Program. The part of their site at <http://www.iwla.org> has different tools for effective watershed improvement projects, including a stream monitoring and restoration database.

Calculate Individual Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Air Pollution

With just a few clicks of the mouse and a ZIP code, consumers can see how their individual energy use is affecting the earth. EPA's Power Profiler calculates how much air pollution results from individual electricity use, the fuels used to produce that electricity and how to reduce the impact.

EPA has updated the web-based Power Profiler with recently released data on emissions and fuels. In addition to learning the emissions from their individual electricity use, users can see how they compare with national averages.

With information from the calculator on their monthly electricity use, consumers can assess their annual emissions. The site also guides users to other web-based information showing how to reduce emissions from one's home or business through greater energy efficiency and use of renewable energy.

Power Profiler uses information from EPA's Emissions & Generation Resource Integrated Database (eGRID), a comprehensive source of data on the environmental characteristics of nearly all electric power generated in the United States.

For more information about the Power Profiler visit



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Got News?

The Region 10 Tribal Newsletter invites you, our readers, to submit ideas and articles for consideration and to share your successes and challenges. Photographs are also welcome. Please submit articles to: Don Creek, 811 S.W. 6th Ave. EPA, Portland, OR 97204 or e-mail creek.don@epa.gov.

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To Report Spills and Accidents

Note these emergency numbers to call in the event of hazardous material spills or accidents.

Alaska	800-478-9300	Washington	800-258-5990
Idaho	800-632-8000	National (EPA)	800-424-8301
Oregon	800-452-0311		